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### James Everole collecting pheasant feathers to clean oboes

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Missoula, Nov. (00) -- While it is the usual destiny of Montana pheasants to wind up in a frying pan, their tail feathers this season are going on to musical glory.

Under the urging of James Eversole, band director at Montana State University, the Missoula Lions Club is staging a roundup of the feathers because out of all the devices of gods or men, there is nothing like a pheasant tail feather to clean an oboe. Eversole reported that the music department at MSU has a constant stream of feather requests from oboists, particularly in the east, and the school is doing a thriving courtesy business with tail feathers gathered by Lions Club gunners.

According to Eversole, an oboe gathers moisture in the barrel during use, and unless this moisture is removed after playing there's a good chance that it will be trapped in the oboe wood and produce costly cracks. A pheasant tail feather accommodates itself to the taper of the oboe barrel, particularly to the small bore area at the upper joint. The natural oil in the feather has the quality of picking up and holding moisture.

The Lions call it "oboe grease."